

The Earth Has Grown Old



The earth has grown old with its burden of care,
But at Christmas it always is young;
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair,
And its soul full of music breaks forth on the air,
When the song of the angels is sung.

It is coming, old earth, it is coming tonight!
On the snowflakes that cover thy sod
The feet of the Christ-Child fall gentle and white,
And the voice of the Christ-Child tells out with delight
That mankind are the children of God.

The feet of the humblest may walk in the field
Where the feet of the holiest have trod,
This, this is the marvel to mortals revealed
When the silvery trumpets of Christmas have pealed,
That mankind are the children of God.

—Phillips Brooks

Peter and the Mulberry Tree

By Christopher Grant Hazard

SOME dogs have names. There was Caspar, the pup. He had a name, but he was too young to know it.

There was old dog Barker. My father used to make Barker sit up and listen. Father would say to me, "No orderly boy would leave his hat on the floor like that. Barker wouldn't do it, if he were a boy."

Then Barker would bark, once. Then my father would ask Barker if he was a good dog, and Barker would bark twice.

Some dogs have no names. The little black and white dog across the street is just a dog, but he will come when you whistle.

There is a dog near here who knows the butcher cart when he sees it coming. He drives all the hens out of the yard, so he can pick up the scraps of meat that fall from the cart while the butcher is getting the meat ready.

This dog hasn't any name. He is so selfish that he isn't worth naming.

Once there was a tree, and it had a name. It was a mulberry tree. The man that owned the tree had a dog, too. His name was Peter, and no little dog was ever more fond of meat than Peter was of mulberries.

He would hunt around in the grass, under the mulberry tree, until he had found every mulberry that had fallen down. Then he would run against the tree and bump down a lot more.

Some children heard about Peter and the mulberry tree and it made them think of something.

It made them think of fixing up a Christmas tree, with many little packages upon it—like mulberries—and then bumping the things off for Christmas gifts.

So, this is just what they did. Charlie had the first bump. When he picked up his package he found that he had a round hole with a square peg in it.

There was a bit of paper tied to the peg, and on it was written: "Get into the right place."

Harry's bump brought down a square hole with a round peg in it. Its paper said:

"Don't get into the wrong place."

Then Frank gave a bump that was a regular butt, and he held up a square hole with a square peg in it. These words were with them:

"A place for everybody, and everybody in his place."

When Dick bumped, he got a round hole and a round peg.

"What does this mean?" he shouted. "The same thing," answered Frank. "Sure," said Chauncey.

Chauncey was the littlest. He was so little that he used to take his doll to bed with him and talk over with it, before he went to sleep, the things they had done that day. And he had just learned that word "sure." He was so proud of it that he used to say it to his father instead of "yeth sir." Chauncey would soon learn that "sure" was not as nice as "yeth sir."

Then the girls said it was their turn and they began to bump.

Ruth got an alphabet, so as to learn not to say "hikjinnop."

Sarah had "a headache in her knee," so Mary bumped for her.

Down came a pair of rubbers and Mary put them on "inside outwards," just to try them.

Then they all bumped the tree for Chauncey, who wasn't big enough to bump hard enough to make anything fall.

Such a lot of things tumbled off. There was a baseball glove—Ruth tried it on and her hand looked like a bassock; a breastpin—Sarah pinned it on her sleeve, "where she could see it;" two doll dress patterns; a new doll's hat—a small hat; a set of dishes, a doll's high chair; and a toothpick.

Chauncey was like the old woman who lived in the shoe. He didn't know what to do with all his things; but he was careful to use the toothpick every time he took a drink of milk.

There was still one package left. It was in the top of the tree.

One little girl, her name was Lucy, had not had anything. So the children let her pull the top of the tree down to get this package.

And there was the dearest doll that ever came off of a Christmas tree. It had blue eyes that would open and shut and the cunningest frock.

Lucy, now the doll's mother, thought

that this was the very best gift of all. Then, just as they were going to go downstairs, there came a rap at the door.

"Come in," they shouted. "What do you suppose? It was Santa Claus. He marched in with stockings for them that were all bulging and bursting with good things.

What fun they had with him and with all the things he had brought.

They had such a good time that some of it spread away around the corner to a house that Santa Claus had not visited yet.

So, everybody had something. This is what God meant the Christmas tree for.

After their visit to the poor children, they all went home laughing and happy enough to wait a whole year for a new crop of Christmas cheer—just as the dog Peter, has to wait until another season for a new crop of mulberries.

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A landlord and a property owner were sentenced in a police court in Los Angeles Tuesday to serve 40 days each in the city jail for having disturbed the peace of a tenant by forcibly evicting him. Sam Borelli brought action against A. J. Edmondson, the landlord, and E. W. Graves, owner of the property Borelli occupied, for having nailed up the doors and windows of the house before 30 days had expired after serving the tenant with notice of rent increase.

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WORLD HAPPENINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume Most Important Daily News Items.

COMPILED FOR YOU

Events of Noted People, Governments and Pacific Northwest, and Other Things Worth Knowing.

The volcano Lanin, on the Argentine frontier, is reported to be in a state of eruption. The volcano is approximately 9000 feet high.

The Asama Yama volcano, about 90 miles northwest of Tokio, has been in eruption for several days. The ashes are falling over a wide area.

Mixed hogs sold at \$9.90 hundred-weight at the Cleveland union stock yards Tuesday. This is the lowest the market has been since November, 1916.

The potato market in San Francisco is at its record low level of the year. The kingy tuber, ruler of produce row several months ago, is now nothing but the lowly "spud" begging even slight recognition.

A large passenger airplane leaving London for Paris with six passengers Tuesday fouled a tree, burst into flames and crashed to the ground. The pilot, a mechanic and two passengers are reported killed and other passengers injured.

A 20 per cent reduction in retail price of lumber went into effect Wednesday in Spokane according to announcement by Spokane lumber dealers, nearly all of whom will join in the general cut.

An appropriation of \$400,000 for starting work on the Deschutes irrigation project in Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes counties, Oregon, has been recommended by John Barton Payne, secretary of the interior in a letter sent to President Wilson for approval.

Announcements were made Tuesday of the shutting down or curtailing of large industrial plants in Elizabeth, N. J. The main plant of the Singer Sewing Machine company, employing 8000 announced it would close from December 22 to January 5, because of lack of orders.

The state of Nebraska has filed a brief with the interstate commerce commission, objecting to the proposal of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad that it be permitted to distribute \$140,000,000 of its surplus in stock dividends and in bonds as a cash dividend.

The Reichstag went on rations of black bread without butter and coffee without sugar or milk Tuesday when the managers and employees of the Reichstag restaurant refused to serve the forbidden foods, "in view of the government's apparent intention to continue raiding hotels to compel them to obey the rationing regulations."

The Associated Oil company of California announces the receipt of advices from Washington that it had concluded a lease with the government, under the oil land leasing act, covering 1400 to 1500 acres of land in the Midway fields and that a tender of \$1,400,000, production from the property, had been accepted by the government as a royalty.

Diplomatic relations between Holland and Jugo-Slavia have been broken off, it was stated at The Hague Monday. Holland has recalled her minister from Belgrade and has dismissed the Serbian charge d'affaires at The Hague. The action was taken as the result of what the Dutch foreign office terms "a long series of insults to the Dutch government."

A landlord and a property owner were sentenced in a police court in Los Angeles Tuesday to serve 40 days each in the city jail for having disturbed the peace of a tenant by forcibly evicting him. Sam Borelli brought action against A. J. Edmondson, the landlord, and E. W. Graves, owner of the property Borelli occupied, for having nailed up the doors and windows of the house before 30 days had expired after serving the tenant with notice of rent increase.

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SENATE VOTES FARMER AID

Revival of War Finance Corporation Directed—Bill Goes to House.

Washington, D. C.—The senate late Monday adopted the agriculture committee resolution directing the revival of the war finance corporations as a measure of affording relief to farmers.

The second section of the resolution which as introduced would have directed the extension of liberal credits to farmers by the federal reserve system was amended to make the desirability of such a course only an expression of opinion of the congress.

The amendment making the change of the section of the resolution relating to the federal reserve system was proposed by Senator Norris, republican, Nebraska, and was accepted by a vote of 47 to 16.

Another change made in the resolution on suggestion of Senator Smith, democrat, Georgia, broadened the duties of the finance corporation to include the financing of exportations of products other than those produced on the farm. An amendment by Senator Harris, democrat, Georgia, to make the rate of discount on loans to farmers 5 per cent was rejected.

A substitute for the resolution, presented by Senator Spencer, republican, Missouri, met a similar result. Further action on the bill was without a record vote. The measure now goes to the house, where a number of similar farmer relief measures are pending.

HOUSE VOTES REPEAL OF MOST WAR LAWS

Washington, D. C.—Repeal of most of the war-time laws was voted Monday by the house which adopted the Volstead resolution for that purpose after two hours debate.

The vote was unanimous, 323 votes being cast in favor of it and none opposed. The house before taking the final vote accepted an amendment providing for inclusion of the Lever food control act among the laws which the resolution would repeal.

The amendment which covers all provisions of the food control act with the exception of the section relating to rents in the District of Columbia was offered by Representative Bland (rep.) Indiana. It was carried 179 to 137.

The resolution, which now goes to the senate, exempts from repeal only the trading with the enemy act, the war finance corporation act and its amendments and measures dealing with the issuance of liberty and victory bonds.

The resolution declared "any act of congress that by its terms is in force only during the existence of a state of war and a limited time thereafter shall be construed and administered as if the present war terminated on the date when this resolution becomes effective."

The measure, as adopted, was practically identical with that passed by congress just before the adjournment of the last session and vetoed by President Wilson.

Republican leaders of the house assert that adoption of the resolution was one of the first steps taken by the republican majority to fulfill the campaign pledge to put the country on a peace-time basis.

Disposition of the Volstead resolution cleared the way for consideration of the resolution offered by Representative Reavis, Nebraska, which would provide for a congressional survey of the government's administrative departments.

Red Armies in Caucasus.

Constantinople.—The 9th, 10th, and 11th bolshevik armies already have arrived in the Caucasus, and the bolsheviks began entrenching Baku peninsula, according to a statement made by a traveler, who returned Monday from that region. The bolsheviks were fortifying the neck of the peninsula with all sorts of defense works, in apprehension of a general uprising of the Mohammedans, he added.

Britain Drafts Oil Note.

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Soviet Troops Gather.

London.—Concentrations of the soviet troops are occurring in the direction of Vilna, consequent on the arrival of allied and neutral troops in Lithuania. This was related in a dispatch received Monday from the Lithuanian legation here.

CONSTANTINE BACK IN GREECE AS KING

Cheering Throngs Greet Returned Monarch.

MAKES SIMPLE ENTRY

British and French Envoys Are Accused by Newspaper of Being Pro-Venelist.

Athens.—Constantine of Greece, removed from the throne by action of the allied powers in 1917, and called back by the recent plebiscite to resume his former status, arrived in Athens Sunday. He came into the city by train and was received at the Palace de la Concorde.

Those who greeted the returning monarch included Queen Mother Olga, the regent, and Princess Anastasia, wife of Prince Christopher.

Constantine, however, was greeted station, about 100 yards from the Place de la Concorde, without ostentation and with the returning monarch like an ordinary traveler.

Constantine, however, was greeted by the cheering of thousands of persons who had been awaiting his arrival.

Queen Mother Olga and the Princess Anastasia, dressed in chinchilla furs and wearing picture hats, were standing in the royal group. The ministers also were in the station.

In a carriage drawn by six horses with outriders and followed by troops, a procession with Constantine at its head started for the stadium.

The crowd along the route evinced the greatest enthusiasm, frequently breaking out of bounds and rushing up and kissing the harness of the horses drawing the royal equipage. Wild cheering was heard along the entire line of march, the people being almost delirious with joy.

After visiting the cathedral, Constantine went to the royal palace where he read a message to the people.

The newspaper Kathimerini has suggested that the Earl of Granville, British minister to Greece, and Robert de Billy, French minister, should be recalled on the ground that they are pro-Venelist, but that possibly they could remain as high commissioners to carry out the British guarantees which could be embodied in a new note. It pointed out that high commissioners have more power and liberty of action than ministers.

Hundreds Killed in Violent Southern Earthquakes

Buenos Aires.—Earthquake shocks which on Friday afternoon destroyed several towns along the Argentine slope of the Andes mountains, were the most severe experienced in this country since 1869, when half the city of Mendoza was laid in ruins. Reports from the area where the shock was heaviest indicate great loss of life and property, upwards of 150 bodies having already been taken from the wrecks of buildings.

At Tresportenas more than 100 perished and at Costa de Araujo 81 were killed and 80 seriously injured. It was feared that more victims were still buried under the ruins in each town.

At Tresportenas, La Valle and La Central not a house was left standing, and those not destroyed in other towns were left in a badly damaged condition. No estimate of the total number of persons injured has yet been made.

Inaugural Ball Assured.

Washington, D. C.—Revival of the historical inaugural ball as a feature of the inauguration of President-elect Harding has been definitely decided upon by the Washington committee arranging for the festivities March 4.

The inaugural ball was one of the chief events in the inauguration programme of the first inauguration of President Wilson, who requested that it be dispensed with.

Immigrant Tide Rises.

New York.—The Christmas rush of immigrants and other passengers anxious to spend the holidays on American soil reached its height Sunday when eight trans-Atlantic liners arrived. They carried more than 12,000 passengers.

Japan Has 77 Million.

Tokio.—Japan's population, as revealed by the census recently completed, is more than a million under the estimate. The total number of persons in the empire is 77,005,000, of which 55,960,000 are in Japan and 17,244,000 in Corea.